

The Latest News from Your Minnesota State Band

Summer 2019



Dress Rehearsal for our 120th Anniversary Gala Concert

Our 120th Anniversary Concert was a Terrific Success!

Performing at the beautiful Benson Great Hall on the campus of Bethel University was very exciting. By performing an afternoon concert rather than an evening performance, we made it possible for residents of several local nursing homes to join us. Bethel contacted the nursing homes and they provide bus transportation to the concert. Hundreds showed up and everyone had a great time!



Both our Gala Concert and concert in Hutchinson featured a performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue featuring piano soloist Dan Chouinard.



These members from our sister band Musikverein Ellzee traveled all the way from Germany to attend our 120th Anniversary Concert.

The Minnesota State Band Supports Minnesota Composers and Artists!

In March 2017, the Minnesota State Band featured the debut of a newly arranged piece by Jay Fishman, Director of the Minnesota Sinfonia. Several years ago, Mr. Fishman arranged a medley of Jewish wedding music for string quartet to be played at his brother's wedding. Mr. Fishman later arranged this piece for the Sinfonia, and has now granted permission for the work to be arranged for concert band. The Minnesota State Band commissioned Michael Serber, local composer and arranger, to complete this new arrangement of Mazel Tov.

The Minnesota State Band was the only concert band selected to perform at the Official Rededication of the **Minnesota State Capital**. In recognition of that honor, the band commissioned a new work. That piece was Capital Fanfare written by Minnesota Composer Carl Schroeder. The piece received its **world premiere** on August 11, 2017 at the State Capital.

In January 2018 the band premiered a new work for concert band by Jane Lanctot that took a traditional Cambodian song (800-1000 years old) based on a pentatonic scale and skillfully arranged it for the modern concert band. We performed this piece at **Hmong College Prep Academy** during a joint concert with the school band.

The Minnesota State Band commissioned a special work by Minnesota composer David Evan Thomas which received its **world premiere** at our 120th Anniversary Gala Concert at the **Benson Great Hall at Bethel University**. The work entitled One Fair Summer Eve was inspired by the composer's visits to the Minnesota State Fair. It includes four movements, I - Pronto, II - Carousel, III - Princess Kay of the Milky Way and IV - On Machinery Hill. This work will be featured at concerts throughout the summer.

Also at our Gala Concert, Minnesota artist and pianist Dan Chouinard performed with the band George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

How do we select what music to play at concerts?

A note from our Director Keith Liuzzi

I was recently asked to share some thoughts about conducting, for a workshop held at the University of Pretoria, Australia. Here is the advice I chose to offer:

When programming a concert, I want the musicians and the audience to experience a range of emotions and musical styles. Just like cooking a nourishing meal, I include pieces that educate our minds, touch our hearts, lift our spirits, and bring us joy!

In addition to the actual thrill of conducting rehearsals and performances of this fine Band, I thoroughly enjoy selecting the music for each concert, using my philosophy and ideas of variety and nourishment.

I hope our audiences, too, enjoy our concert programming. Thank you for your support of the music and the musicians.

Minnesota State Band Concert Tours to Small Towns Across Minnesota!

In 2016 and again in 2018, the Minnesota State Band received a grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Our plan was to increase the number of concert tours, continuing to reach out to smaller communities in outstate Minnesota. Our musical goal is unique among arts organizations. Most of Minnesota's "established" arts organizations only perform in large concert halls in the Twin Cities. In contrast, the Minnesota State Band brings its music to people all over the state, performing in the communities where they live. Here is a list of small towns we have visited since 2016.

**Alexandria, Litchfield, Moose Lake, Iron, Winona, Hutchinson, Park
Rapids, Wadena, Fairmont, Chatfield and Sauk Centre**

Thank You to All of Our Volunteers!!



Deb Allen (pictured with her daughter Heather) has been volunteering at our 'Bear Table' for a number of years. She makes sure concert attendees have programs, assists attendees signing up for memberships, answers questions and promotes the band in every way. Thanks Deb for your dedication and support!



Minnesota State Band Upcoming Concerts

June 19 at 7:00 pm Sauk Centre, Sinclair Lewis Park, Sauk Centre, MN

July 11 at 7:00 pm Roseville Central Park, 2540 Lexington Ave N, Roseville, MN

August 4 at 3:00 pm Vintage Band Festival, Bridge Square, Northfield, MN

August 7 at 7:00 pm Como Lakeside Pavilion, St. Paul, MN

August 14 at 7:00 pm Como Lakeside Pavilion

August 21 at 7:00 pm Como Lakeside Pavilion

August 22 at 7:00 pm Shakopee, Huber Park, 150 Filmore St N, Shakopee, MN

Renew Your Associate Membership

The Minnesota State Band is very thankful for your support. Without loyal supporters, the mission of the Minnesota State Band could never be realized. Please take this opportunity to renew your tax-deductable Associate Membership.



Partly funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage fund

